

Recent events in England have shown us how difficult the challenge is for other countries and how sometimes preemptive and decisive action is needed in order to protect the citizens of England and our country as well. We applaud the close working relationship we have with them. We benefit from their efforts, and we are grateful to them for the courage and the skill they have shown in this war on terror.

The Congress should continue to support the administration, not take advantage of opportunities for political bickering, partisan nitpicking—whatever one might want to call it. I think we need to take a higher ground in this debate and discussion of what our options are for protecting our country and our people. We don't need the constant drumbeat of partisan criticism against the President and the Secretary of Defense.

I think we should consider instead the impressive success of our soldiers, their courage, and the courage of their leaders and the skill of their leaders in mobilizing the resources of our country to guarantee success in the war on terror.

Just consider what is going on in Iraq right now. Madam President, under the leadership of President Bush and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and GEN George Casey, our outstanding commander who is responsible for the multinational force that is in Iraq today, we are successfully helping Iraq organize, equip, and train their forces so they can take care of their own security interests.

Iraqi security forces are now in the lead and responsible for almost 75 percent of the military obligations and challenges that are faced today in Iraq.

There are currently 5 Iraqi divisions, 26 brigades, and 88 battalions that are in the lead in their areas of responsibility in Iraq.

More and more of the land area in Iraq is now under the control of Iraqi's own security forces, supported, of course, by coalition government troops who are there as well.

The other day, at a news conference in Baghdad, General Casey explained that he can see U.S. troop reductions in Iraq over the next 12 to 18 months because Iraqi security forces are progressing to a point where they can take on the security responsibilities of the country.

We have seen a significant step being taken when the Iraqi Ministry of Defense announced it is assuming direct operational control over the country's Armed Forces. That announcement was made today. The Iraqi joint headquarters, under the direction of the Ministry of Defense, will be fully responsible now for the Iraqi Air Force, the Iraqi naval force, and the Iraqi ground forces command.

These are facts, Madam President, which we ought to consider and applaud, and our Government and our Department of Defense and our soldiers deserve credit for the successes they

have achieved and the strong leadership that has been provided to them.

The United States and coalition forces have gradually turned over other security operations in Afghanistan, for example, to NATO forces. This has been a very impressive feat of leadership to bring together the forces of NATO originally responsible for European defense and now enlarged to include areas of concern to other NATO countries in what had been previously considered out-of-area interests.

NATO forces have taken control of the International Security Assistance Force in the north, west, most recently in the south, and now are making progress in the east to achieve control and success in defending the security of the people of Afghanistan.

There are 37 nation states involved in this effort. We ought to applaud the President, and we ought to applaud the Secretary of Defense for the successes they have achieved in moving us to this point in our dealings with Afghanistan. We have liberated Afghanistan. The Russians had experiences there. We recall their failures and the dangers that continued under the Taliban—the deprivation of rights, particularly of women and children. No schools were available. Now we have moved into a new area of freedom and hope because of the work that these 37 nations have achieved under U.S. leadership and with the U.S. military very actively involved.

So today I am pleased to say to the administration and the Secretary of Defense and the President specifically: We are proud of the work you are doing. We are going to continue to support you by providing the funding you need to carry out your missions and protect our country against terrorists and the other threats that we have looming on the horizon.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, how much time is remaining in morning business on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is only 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes as in morning business. I want to speak about the Iranian President who is going to be in Washington speaking today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CONRAD. There is no objection on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to speak.

Later today, President Khatami of Iran will be speaking at the National Cathedral. I hope he is asked and he answers a number of questions about

what happened during his reign of terror in Iran.

President Khatami was the President of Iran, the lead sponsor of terrorism around the world.

President Khatami was President of Iran, a country that seeks to have the United States bow down in front of Iran and to Iran.

President Khatami worsened the human rights record in Iran to its own people. As we speak right now, a press conference is going on at the National Press Club of Iranians who have somehow gotten out of that country who were tortured under President Khatami and President Ahmadi-Nejad, the current President of Iran.

I hope that as we deliberate the Department of Defense appropriations bill, we recognize this threat. This is a country, Iran, that seeks to destroy Israel, seeks to attack and destroy the West, seeks to have us bow down. I will read the quote from President Ahmadi-Nejad that he said in July. He called on America and the West to bow before Iran saying:

If you would like to have good relations with the Iranian nation in the future, bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender. If you don't accept to do this, the Iranian nation will force you to surrender and bow down.

Those are his words. We will not bow down. We are in a war on terrorism. We are in a war against Islamic fascism, which this is a statement of. I hope we recognize that. In the war on terrorism, terrorism is their tactic, and they use it through Hezbollah and Hamas, which Iran is supporting and operating. They direct it at us. We have to confront this and we have to confront this Islamic fascism. What they seek to establish is a militant dictatorship, an Islamic fascist dictatorship. This group has an object. They don't just wander around. Step 1 is to remove the United States from the Middle East. Step 2 is to establish an Islamic caliphate. This is an Islamic dictator over an entire region—a Shia crescent over an entire region of the world. These are his words. This is what they seek. They seek a nuclear weapon to be able to threaten the region, to be able to use in this region. Ayatollah Khamenei, the lead sponsor and organizer of the current Islamic Republic, in 1979, removing the Shah, came in and said if we destroy Israel, Allah will reward us. This is a governing theological philosophy that has not been walked away from by the current leadership in Iran. Let's listen to the words they say themselves.

Former President Khatami is going to be speaking in Washington, DC, tonight. He said in October 2000:

If we abide by the Koran, all of us should mobilize to kill.

This is October 2000. He should be asked, does he still believe that statement or support that statement.

Today, I will be introducing the Iran Human Rights Act, legislation designed to focus our attention on the

human rights abuses taking place in Iran today and support the efforts of the Iranian people to enact peaceful, democratic reforms.

While we have been focusing on the nuclear weapon development by the Iranians and on their support for terrorism, we should not forget about the plight of the Iranian people and their difficulties under this regime. The bill creates a special envoy to focus on human rights abuses in Iraq and to work with groups who support human rights and democracy in Iran.

The bill provides financial supports to these groups supporting human rights and that are working toward democracy in Iran. Finally, it ensures that the United States broadcast into Iran emphasize U.S. support for the rights and well-being of the Iranian people. We need to focus on the nuclear weapons, and we also need to focus on the rights of the Iranian people being abused by this regime. It is also my hope that we will grant visas to this country to professors being kicked out of universities in Iran because they don't tow the line of the ruling clerics in that country. Currently, the universities are being purged in Iran of the dissident voices of these professors.

We stand with the Iranian people. We stand against this Iranian tyrannical regime. I hope we can move this legislation forward to show our support for the suffering people. I ask the people who go to the meetings where President Khatami is speaking to ask these questions:

Why did he support terrorism? Why did the human rights record get worse under his 8 years of leadership in Iran? Why do they persecute religious minorities and women? Why do they persecute those who have peaceful protests inside Iran? Why does Iran need to enrich uranium when they have plentiful oil and gas supplies? These are serious questions in serious times.

I hope that as we consider this Department of Defense bill, we will consider what the words of those who have vowed to destroy us are and that we take appropriate action against them.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5631, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Rockefeller amendment No. 4906, to strike the section specifically authorizing intelligence and intelligence-related activities.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment of the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that that amendment be set aside in order to consider the amendment to be offered by the Senators from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Dakota, Mr. CONRAD, is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 4907

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes an amendment numbered 4907.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To enhance intelligence community efforts to bring Osama bin Laden and other key leaders of al Qaeda to the justice they deserve)

On page 230, beginning on line 15, strike "\$19,265,000" and all that follows through line 16 and insert the following: "\$219,265,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That \$200,000,000 of such funds is available only for a unit dedicated to bringing to justice Osama bin Laden and other key leaders of al Qaeda: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a classified report on progress made by the operations in the global war on terrorism for which funding is provided in this Act, including an assessment of the likely current location of terrorist leaders, including Osama bin Laden and other key leaders of al Qaeda, a description of ongoing efforts to bring to justice such terrorists, a description of the cooperation provided by the governments of any countries assessed as likely locations of top leaders of al Qaeda and by other relevant countries, a description of diplomatic efforts currently being made to improve the cooperation of any such governments, and a description of the status of, and strategy for bringing to justice, perpetrators of terrorism including the top leadership of al Qaeda: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall prepare such reports in consultation with other appropriate officials with regard to funds appropriated under this chapter: *Provided further*, That the amount provided under this heading is designated as making appropriations for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism, and other unanticipated defense-related operations, pursuant to section 402 of H. Con Res. 376 (109th Congress), as made applicable to the House of Representatives by H. Res. 818 (109th Congress) and is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of S. Con. Res. 83 (109th Congress), the concurrent reso-

lution on the budget for fiscal year 2007, as made applicable in the Senate by section 7035 of Public Law 109-234."

Mr. CONRAD. The amendment is on behalf of myself and Senators DORGAN, SALAZAR, and MENENDEZ.

Five years ago, our Nation was viciously attacked by al-Qaida. We all remember the horrific images from that fateful day. I remember so well arriving at the Capitol building for early morning meetings and, as we entered, security personnel ordered an evacuation. Those of us who were evacuated from this building went back to our offices and were again evacuated there, as there was a belief that there was a potential threat to the Capitol complex. Later on, we saw the results of the attack. We saw people jumping from the World Trade Center. We saw the attack on the Pentagon. We did not know, in the early hours, who was responsible, but we knew the world had changed.

I remember very well that night, as Members of Congress stood on the steps of the Capitol showing that we were shoulder to shoulder in defense of America. That night, there were no Republicans, there were no Democrats; there were just proud Americans on the steps of this Capitol, men and women elected to represent our individual States here in this Capitol. In the 20 years I have been in this Chamber, I never saw such unity, such a sense of purpose that we would not let these acts stand and that those who were responsible would be held to account.

We need to renew that spirit. We need Democrats and Republicans standing together to bring to justice those who were responsible for these horrific acts. In this photo is the man who planned, financed, and organized those operations, Osama bin Laden, the head of al-Qaida. It has now been over 1,800 days since those attacks, and this man is still on the loose. This man has still not been brought to justice. I believe it is one of our Nation's highest priorities that he and the other top leadership of al-Qaida be brought to justice. I include Mr. al-Zawahiri. I think we also know that Mullah Omar, the leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, has not been apprehended and brought to justice either.

To me, this is centrally important to the war on terrorism. We have to get the terrorist leaders who designed the attack on our country. I say to my colleagues that I graduated from high school from an American military base in Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, Willis Air Force Base. I had relatives who were in the intelligence service of the United States who served in that part of the world as well. One thing I learned when I was in that part of the world is that if a fight started, you better get the leaders and you better get them quick; otherwise, it mushroomed and escalated. My experience was very minor. It was on the basketball court, where we would have shepherds periodically come and start throwing